Outcomes of survey results from the National and Regional Rural Networks

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Outline of presentation

1. **Overview of NRN survey results – setting the scene**
2. **Summary of the Transnational Cooperation Survey – NRNs**
3. **Summary of the Transnational Cooperation Survey – LAGs**
4. **Outcomes**

1. Indications from the survey of NRNs related to the Leader axis

1.1 Priorities of the network strategy by ranking
(as presented at the 'Capacity Building seminar' 30-31.03.09)

- **Establishing effective and sustainable networks, stimulating actors, and increasing cooperation between rural actors**

- **Identification, analysis and dissemination of transferable good/best practices**

- **Organising seminars and training programmes, cooperation with the EN RD and other networks**

- **Facilitating cooperation**

1. Indications from the survey of NRNs related to the Leader axis

1.2 Network activities (by ranking) to support the priorities
(as presented at the 'Capacity Building seminar' 30-31.03.09)

- **Organisational tasks:** *establishing the networks, stimulating actors, and increasing cooperation between rural actors*

- **Communication and exchange:** *identification, analysis and dissemination of transferable good/best practices*

- **Coordination and animation:** *organising seminars and training programmes, cooperation with the EN RD and other networks*
- **Assistance to Axis 4:** *facilitating cooperation*

1. Indications from the survey of NRNs related to the Leader axis

1.3 Some identified challenges: (as presented at the 'Capacity Building seminar' 30-31.03.09)

Short term:

- **Motivation of stakeholders,**

- **Tools and documentation for inter-territorial and transnational cooperation projects, also with third countries,**

- **Establishing networks or links between EN RD and national TWGs,**

- **Implementation of TNC and best practices.**

Long term:

- **Providing the necessary long-term support for:**
  - **- the NRN structure itself**
  - **- the beneficiaries of the EAFRD**
  - **- networking and cooperation**

2. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - NRNs

2.1 Basis for the analysis:

- **The information provided is based on the responses to the 'Survey of National Rural Networks' carried out by the EN RD Contact Point between December 2008 and mid-March 2009.**

- **Replies were received from 25 (out of a possible 31) rural networks representing 23 Member States**

- **Please note that not all questions were answered by all NRNs**

2. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - NRNs

2.2 How do the NRNs see their role in TNC:

(ranked by frequency)

- Seminars, trainings, participation in (European) events*

  *Example of the forthcoming event in June in **Spain** (Seville)*

- Promotional activities for TNC

  Through websites, magazines, good practices, funding preparatory visits, information in general, showing the added value of co-operation

- Support the Partner Search*

- Exchange of experiences and know-how

  ***Finnish NRN** event in Lapland (march 2009) had a cooperation fair where LAGs from different countries could post 'partner searches'*

- Transfer of knowledge (relevant experiences, guidelines), publications*

* **Tools/services already in place in some Member States**

2. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - NRNs

2.3 Planned support functions (ranked by frequency):

- Seminars and workshops

- Specific trainings

  Austria: *Planning of Coaching of new LAGs by LAG managers with TNC experience*

- Guides and handbooks

  Denmark: Guide on: introduction of cooperation projects in paper and electronic form: Czech Republic: Rules for beneficiaries regarding measure IV.2.1 of LEADER:

- Others: websites and databases, study trips, mentoring and methodological support

2. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - NRNs

2.4 The most active stakeholders in TNC (ranked by frequency):

- **Public organisations**

  Such as museums and schools linked to specific projects such as 'cultural heritage', tourism

- **Local municipalities**
- **Farmers, Farmers Associations, Agricultural Chambers**
- *Poland: Farmers Associations; Agricultural Chambers: Rural Development and environmental Foundations and Associations: Regional and local self – government units; Representatives of businesses; Agricultural High schools*
- **Tourism organisations**
- **Local and regional development agencies (as regional partners)**

  Spain: Association of national and regional rural development networks; Universities, cooperatives; councils; farmers unions and associations; environmentalist NGOs

- **Rural communities** *Portugal: working on 'craft projects'*

Most of the active stakeholders are related to Axis 3

2. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - NRNs

2.5 Most popular topics for TNC (ranked by frequency):
     (ranked by frequency)

- **Tourism**
- **Cultural heritage**
- **Exchange of experience/capacity building**
  Hungary, Poland , Slovenia, Sweden, UK-Northern Ireland, UK-Wales: Is a mix of both old and new MS
- **Nature and environmental issues**
  Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Spain and UK: all old MS

Many of these popular topics are related to Axis 3

2. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - NRNs

2.6 : Most pressing needs in developing TNC projects:
        (ranked by priority need)

- Administrative procedures
- Identification of suitable partners
- Coordination of the potential partnership
- Management of the potential partnership
- Defining clear aims and objectives
- Establishing realistic targets linked to local strategies
- Others: language barriers, financial problems

2. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - NRNs

2.7 : Most pressing needs in implementing TNC projects:

    (ranked by priority need)

- **Operation management**
- **Joint monitoring**
- **Keeping actual achievements aligned with local strategies**

2. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - NRNs

2.8 : Expectations about help from the Contact Point:
(ranked by frequency)

- **Support in partner search**
- **Information/support on rules and procedures**
- **Website with databases**
- **Conferences, seminars and workshops (on TNC)**
- **Good practices**
- **TNC Guide + methodological material**
- **Project Database**

3. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - LAGs

3.1 Basis for the analysis:

- **The information provided is based on the responses to the 'Survey of Local Action Groups' (coordinated by the NRNs)**

- **It was carried out by the EN RD Contact Point between December 2008 and mid-March 2009.**

- **Replies were received from 167 LAGs, representing 23 National and Regional Rural Networks and 20 Member States**

- **Please note that not all questions were answered by all LAGs**

3. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - LAGs

3.1 Experience of TNC project implementation:

- **53% of LAGs have previous experience in project implementation**

- **Of these 84% are already aware about the selection criteria and approval procedures of their partners**

3. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - LAGs

3.2 : Most difficult stages of implementation (ranked by frequency)

- **Preparation/application: the different administrative procedures, finding common objectives/priorities, funding**

- **Initiation: finding common objectives, finding partners, different administration procedures, obtaining funding**

- **Implementation: administrative obstacles, lack of partner interest**

- **Completion: different administrative procedures, general project management**

- **Evaluation: process is time consuming**

3. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - LAGs

3.3 : Main support expected to help overcome difficulties: (ranked by frequency)

- **Updated information: LAGs, eligible measures, timetable of approvals, approval procedures in different Member States**

- **Support for Partner Search**

- **Seminars, trainings, communication of 'know-how' (for LAGs and administrative bodies)**

- **Standardisation and simplification of TNC administrative procedures and rules**

3. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - LAGs

3.4: Preparation of TNC projects:

- **51% of LAGs are currently preparing TNC projects:**

  - Common topics linked to cultural/historical/natural heritage; tourism; environment and local products

  - Other topics: young-people, village exchange, renewable energy

- **On average 6.5 partners per project**

- **79% involve stakeholders with previous experience**

- **47% are projects continuing from Leader+**

3. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - LAGs

3.5 : Most pressing need/difficulty when developing TNC Projects: (ranked by frequency)

- Coordination of the potential partnership: language, distance, time constraints, legal & financial procedures

- Identification of suitable partners: knowledge of national programmes allowing cooperation under axes 1 & 2

- Management of the potential partnership: assessing project feasibility, costing and finance, reaching partnership agreement, language/translation

- Administrative procedures

3. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - LAGs

3.6 : Most pressing needs/difficulties of being project leader/partner when implementing TNC projects: (ranked by frequency)

- Operations management: extent to which all partners participate, resourcing for follow-up and quality assurance

- Administrative procedures

- Keeping actual achievements in line with local strategies

- Joint monitoring: progress review (for operations management, reporting and evaluation)

3. Summary of the results of the TNC survey - LAGs

3.7 : Priorities for solving pressing needs/difficulties (ranked by priority)

- Guide which shows: added value of TNC, project management tools for all the project stages; information about successful implementation; the different steps of implementation; conflict management, problem solving
- Overview of administrative rules and procedures in the Member States; overview and description of LAGs
- Defining clear rules for the different project partners
- Simplifying documentation and administrative procedures
- Supporting partner search
- Trainings, workshops, and meetings

4. Outcomes about TNC

4.1 There are common needs and priorities for NRNs and LAGs :

- Three main groupings can be clearly identified:

  - Understanding rules and procedures about TNC
  - Identification of suitable partners
  - Coordination and management of potential partnerships

4. Outcomes about TNC

4.2 Expected solutions for dealing with needs/priorities :

- Three main activities linked to specific tools and services:

  - An Integrated European Cooperation Guide: *Understanding rules and procedures about TNC*

  - Partner Search Tool and web- based databses: *Identification of suitable partners*

  - Provide know-how (through targeted support activities): *Coordination and management of potential partnerships*

Feedback of surveys from the National and Regional Rural Networks

Thank you for your attention!